



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Sachi A. Hamai, Executive Officer-
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

At its meeting held December 18, 2007, the Board took the following action:

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The following item was called up for consideration:

Chief Executive Officer's recommendation to approve additions, deletions, and changes to existing Board-adopted legislative positions, which seek to minimize the adverse impact of State actions on the County, achieve greater flexibility over the use of State funds, secure State assistance whenever possible, especially from non-General Fund sources, and promote the growth of the State and local economy; and instruct the Chief Executive Officer, affected Departments, the Legislative Strategist and the County's Legislative Advocates in Sacramento to work with the County's Legislative Delegation, other counties and local governments, and interest groups to pursue these positions.

Supervisor Molina made the following statement:

"Communities of color in Los Angeles County face severe economic, cultural, linguistic and physical barriers for the treatment of mental illness. These individuals are no less likely to suffer from mental illness, yet they do not have equal access to treatment and services. Ethnic communities are less insured and therefore they have less access to mental health care; there are too-few minority mental health specialists in our County and language barriers in mental health care persist. In addition, cultural stigmas associated with mental illness—more than location, language or other barriers—stop these populations from seeking health care.

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“Substantive measures can be taken to combat disparities in access to mental health care. These measures include increasing research specific to communities of color; tailoring treatment to those from different cultures and who speak different languages; and increasing efforts to reduce the stigma of seeking mental health services. Efforts to increase and improve health care access to ethnic communities are outlined in the Health section of the State Legislative Agenda but are largely absent from the Mental Health section. This motion addresses that disparity by ensuring that efforts to improve these individuals’ access to care applies as equally to mental health services as those related to physical health.”

Therefore, on motion of Supervisor Molina, seconded by Yaroslavsky, unanimously carried, the Board adopted the Chief Executive Officer's attached recommendation as amended to include the following language:

1. Support efforts to increase mental health education and training slots at public universities and teaching hospitals, expand workforce development funding and training programs for mental health and other allied health professions and increase efforts to recruit mental health specialists to work with primarily poor and medically uninsured patients and patients in difficult-to-reach areas;
2. Support efforts to provide cultural and linguistic competence standards for all mental health programs to provide culturally and linguistically appropriate care; and
3. Support proposals to increase the utilization of mental health services in ethnic communities through the development of culturally appropriate outreach, messaging and marketing campaigns.

Supervisor Yaroslavsky requested the foregoing motion be reconsidered to allow him to present his amendments to the State Legislative Agenda. Therefore, on motion of Supervisor Burke, and by common consent, there being no objection, the foregoing motion was reconsidered.

Supervisor Yaroslavsky made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Burke, that the Board include the following language in the State Legislative Agenda relating to the Probation Department:

Support legislation that would fund the educational component of the Juvenile Court Community School on a residential model as opposed to a revenue limit model in order to ensure that all youths in the juvenile justice system receive the funding to which they are entitled with regard to education.

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In addition, Supervisor Yaroslavsky made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Burke, that the Board instruct the Chief Executive Officer to remove Section 2.5, Watershed Management and Flood Control, Item No. 11 from the State Legislative Agenda for the Second Year of the 2007-08 Session; and to work with the Agricultural Commissioner/ Director of Weights and Measures and the Director of Public Works to report back to the Board within 30 days regarding the need for this language and discussion of the potentially negative implications to environmental health and safety, stemming from the use of the anticoagulant rodenticides and herbicides, as well as, the best management practices that the County currently employs in order to minimize potential risk to public health and the environment.

On motion of Supervisor Molina, seconded by Supervisor Yaroslavsky, unanimously carried, the Board adopted the Chief Executive Officer's attached recommendations relating to the State Legislative Agenda for the Second Year of the 2007-08 Session with the following amendments:

1. Support efforts to increase mental health education and training slots at public universities and teaching hospitals, expand workforce development funding and training programs for mental health and other allied health professions and increase efforts to recruit mental health specialists to work with primarily poor and medically uninsured patients and patients in difficult-to-reach areas;
2. Support efforts to provide cultural and linguistic competence standards for all mental health programs to provide culturally and linguistically appropriate care;
3. Support proposals to increase the utilization of mental health services in ethnic communities through the development of culturally appropriate outreach, messaging and marketing campaigns;
4. Support legislation that would fund the educational component of the Juvenile Court Community School on a residential model as opposed to a revenue limit model in order to ensure that all youths in the juvenile justice system receive the funding to which they are entitled with regard to education; and

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5. Remove Section 2.5, Watershed Management and Flood Control, Item No. 11 from the State Legislative Agenda for the Second Year of the 2007-08 Session; and work with the Agricultural Commissioner/ Director of Weights and Measures and the Director of Public Works to report back to the Board within 30 days regarding the need for this language and discussion of the potentially negative implications to environmental health and safety, stemming from the use of the anticoagulant rodenticides and herbicides, as well as, the best management practices that the County currently employs in order to minimize potential risk to public health and the environment.

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